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AN

ANSWER

TO

SEVERAL REASONS

Humbly

Offered to the Conſideration of Both Houſes of Parliament, for the Taking off the Prohibition, and giving Leave to the Importation of

IRISH CATTEL.

With Allowance.

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An Answer to Several Reasons, Humbly Offered to both Houses of Parliament, for taking off the Prohibition of *Irish* Cattle;

Proving,

1. THat the Prohibition of Irish Cattle was not the cause of the Loss of Trade with *Ireland*.

2. That the granting a free Importation of Cattle from *Ireland* will not in the least encrease the Trade to *Ireland*.

3. That the Prohibition of Irish Cattle hath not prevented the Coming of them over.

4. The Laying an Imposition upon the Irish Cattle, with several other Commodities, as Beef, Mutton, Pork, Bacon, Tongues, Butter, Cheese, Tallow and Fish, will prove a far greater Advantage both to the King and Kingdom.

Had the Authour to the said Paper really Considered the nature of the Kingdom of *Ireland*, what it was before the Rebellion, and the several Changes since, it might easily have convinced him, that it was not the Prohibition of Irish Cattle that wrought those effects he pretended: For *Ireland* before the Rebellion was most planted with Native Irish, and the Lands in their Possession, a people so wedded to their ancient Customes, that nothing was more hateful to them then the alteration of any of them, or to make any other Improvements then what they were accustomed to.

But those Wars making so great Desolation, and Destruction amongst them, and most of their Lands being since planted and peopled by English and Scotch, it is now a quite different thing.

The English when they went over to Inhabit, after the Wars were ended, bought up and carried over with them the Largest and best

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beſt Cattle, Horſes and ſheep, that *England* could produce: And from thence have encreaſed ſuch a Breed of Cattle, Horſes and ſheep as will compare with the beſt in *England*, both for largeneſs and fatneſs; as alſo with wool, Butter and Cheeſe that the Engliſh there make, not being inferiour to what is made in *England* for goodneſs.

2. The Parliament of *Ireland* did, and the Engliſh do give all the encouragement they can for the ſetting up of Manufactures, and to all Artificers to come and live among them, which are the true Reaſons of the loſs and decay of Trade the Engliſh formerly had to *Ireland*.

But for further Anſwer to the ſaid Paper, and to their Firſt Argument.

1. *The Prohibition hath proved prejudiciall to his Majeſties Cuſtoms.*

1. The Guſtom of Cattle Imported out of *Ireland* being very little, and the great charge in the looking after their coming in, and Collecting the Duty, did amount to near the Money, if not more then what the Cuſtome came to for Foraign goods that are Imported directly for *Ireland*, the Merchants of *Ireland* being able to ſell them cheaper by 20 per cent. then to bring them into *England*, and pay Cuſtoms here, and then carry them to *Ireland*.

2. *It hath greatly prejudiced moſt of the Land-Owners in England, (there not being Land in England for Breeding) to raiſe a ſtock for feeding, to ſupply the Nation, and ſo have transferred moſt of the Victualling for home Conſumption, Foreign Trade, and Navall Proviſion out of England into Ireland.*

1. For anſwer, This is ſo great an errour, that ever ſince the Laws were made, there hath been no want of proviſions in *England*, and that at reaſonable prizes, not only in times of peace, but in the times of War, his Majeſties Fleets were well ſupplied without the going to *Ireland* for any.

2. No Merchants will ſend their Veſſels for *Ireland* for Victualling their Veſſels, although their Proviſions are very much cheaper:

cheaper: Their loss of time, (besides the hazards of the Seas, their Sea-men being in constant pay, will be treble the loss of what they shall save by their buying their Provision.

3. How is it possible that Breeding Land-Owners can be losers, when it is alledged they sell their lean Cattle far dearer than formerly; and for the Feeding-Lands they cannot be losers by them, for although *Scotland* daily bring in lean Cattle, yet *Ireland* will fill the Markets with fat Cattle, especially sheep, and never trouble the Feeding Lands with them, they being fed fit for any Market.

4. *This Prohibition is destructive to Navigation.*

1. This is as great an Errour, for the Irish have Ships anow of their own to Transport their Cattle.

2. Those many Ships that carry Coals for *Ireland*, and do return only in their Ballast, will bring over more Cattle then *Ireland* can spare.

4. *The* Dutch *have been supplyed from* Ireland.

It is true, and so hath *France*, *Spain*, *Portugal*, and the *Streits*; which cannot be prevented; there being so many Merchants not only English but other Nations that have their Factors residing in *Ireland*, and all the Ports well-stored with Shipping, that they do not only supply all those parts with provision, but make their Returns with those Commodities the Kingdom can Vend, and the overplus is made in Money.

5. *The Irish took no Money out of* England.

This also is very true, but now much better; for they are forced to bring over their Money to pay their Rents to their Landlords that live in *England*, which are many; but for carrying over Goods, they care not, because they can be supplied at far cheaper Rates.

6. *For the price of Beef in* Ireland.

That is a great mistake; For the Beef they Barrell up for Sea is not Sold under 5. or 10. s. a C. or more, and should the

English

English be brought to sell at the same rates, the Land-Owners must of necessity abate above one half of their Rents, which will not be well pleasing to the Gentry of *England*.

7. *For the Lessening their breed of Cattle.*

1. They do not lessen their Breed of Cattle although they do encrease in their breed of Sheep, for there is more Land in *Ireland* than will breed far more than is yet done, had they but encouragement to transport for *England* what they cannot Vend in other parts of the world.

2. For their sending their Wool for *England*, they do what in them lies to prevent; The Parliament of *Ireland* having laid a Custom upon Wool that shall be sent for *England*, of near 30 *per cent.*

3. They have also laid a great Custom upon all Cloth, Stuffs, Stockins, and Hats that shall be Imported out of *England*.

4. To Encourage the making of those Manufactures in *Ireland*, they did lay a very small Custom upon all those Manufactures that should be made in *Ireland*, and be Exported into any part of the world, which hath produced that effect, that they do not now only supply themselves with all those commodities, but in short time will be able to supply *England* with considerable quantities. And for sending their Wool to other parts of the world, it is contrary to the Laws, and if they do, it is by stealth.

5. For the Cheapness of Provisions in *Ireland*: They are able to work cheaper then in *England*, and so can undersell them in those severall Commodities: But how can it be prevented? For it is generally observed, that in all those Manufactures in *England*, when Provision is at the dearest then the Markets are best supplied and cheapest. The Laws of *England* having so well provided for the poor, that they will not at any time lay up for sickness or old age, expecting when that comes, that the Parish is bound to provide for them; and when provision is very cheap, they will rather play half their time, then lay up a stock before-hand.

6. If it be the Authors designe to have all sorts of provisions as cheap in *England* as in *Ireland*, he should have done well to have propoſed a way to have raiſed the Lands of *Ireland* to the value of

of the Lands in *England*; if not, then the Gentry of *England* must fall the Rents of their Land to the same rates they are Let in *Ireland*, which they would certainly be very unwilling to do, neither can it be advantagious or good for the Kingdom in generall.

8. *This Prohibition hath put* England *out of a capacity of Trading to* Ireland *by raising the Price of the Exchange of Money.*

2. *By undoing many Shop keepers, who want Chapmen for their Old fashion Goods, and Wares.*

1. For the Exchange of Money, It is true, it was the last War at 16. or 18. *per cent.* by reason of the great hazard of bringing it over, but ever since it is at 7 *l.* or 8. *per cent.* which is no more then equall with the Value of Money in *Ireland*: For when gold is here at 21*s.*-6*d.* it passes currant in all payments at 23*s.* there; and the same difference is between English money, and the money that is currant in *Ireland*; for 20*s.* in English silver passes there for 21*s.* and 8*d.*

2. For the Shop-keepers selling their old-fashoned Wares, they must look another Market, for they are not only grown wealthy in *Ireland*, but so gentile also, that the newest fashions that *England* can supply them with, will not please them: nothing less then the *A la mode of France* will give content.

9. *This Prohibition hath put them upon Industry, and taking of Fish in* Ireland, *which will be fatal to* England.

1. That they are industrious and fallen upon the taking of Fish, is not to be denied, but that the Prohibiting the Irish Cattle, is the cause, is the most irrational argument that could be invented.

2. The true Reasons are, the Merchants not only of *Ireland*, but the most considerable Merchants of *England*, have sent over their Factors, into the Ports of *Ireland*, and do provide them all things necessary for the taking of Fish, as also with Salt to Cure them, and Cask to put them up in, with ready money for all they take, which certainly will make them industrious, or nothing that can be invented will do.

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BY what hath been offer'd, it is evident, that as the Prohibition of Iriſh Cattle hath not been the Occaſion of the Loſs of Trade with *Ireland*, ſo it may as eaſily be proved, that the Prohibition of Iriſh Cattle hath not anſwered the Expectation of the Parliament; for although the ſeveral ſtatutes have laid very great penalties on thoſe that ſhall break the ſame; yet there are many whoſe principles are for private gain before any publique good, and who contrive all ways poſſible to evade the ſaid Laws, and run the hazard of ſuffering the penalties, having ſo great advantage if they can eſcape them, as to be gainers at leaſt 60 *per cent.* of all Cattle they can Land, and full *C. per C.* of all Sheep: I ſhall therefore mention ſome of thoſe ways by which theſe men do evade the ſaid Act, and have been the great Occaſion Fat Cattle have not anſwered the price of Lean, by which means the Feeding-Lands have been ſo great ſufferers.

1. By Landing the Fat Beaſts from *Ireland* at the *Iſle of Man*, and then Shipping them over for *England*, there being ſo many Ports, and at that diſtance one from the other, that no account can be taken of what quantity comes from thence.

2. By agreeing with the Church-wardens of ſeveral Pariſhes, which many times ſhare with them in the Profits.

3. The Engliſh Coaſt lying ſo advantagiouſly for their deſignes, they hire ſeveral Lordſhips, and other Grounds that lie near the Sea, that ſo upon the Ebb of the Tides, they do throw their Cattle into the Sea, near half a League, oftentimes more; The Cattle ſwimming to Land, have thoſe to take them up as Strays, and drive them upon thoſe Grounds, and it cannot be proved they came from *Ireland*, the Cattle being of *Engliſh* breed, not being able to be diſtinguiſhed one from another: The like way they have for the Importation of Sheep.

It is therefore further humbly Proposed,

1. That a Considerable Duty or Imposition may be laid upon all sorts of Cattle, together with all sorts of Flesh, and Fish, Butter, Cheese, and Tallow, and other Commodities Imported from *Ireland*, which will prove advantagious both to the Kings Majesty, by Receiving that, (which theirs who contrive and practice the breach of the Laws) do gain.

2. Several men will be Employed to be continually Watching of the Coasts, for Collecting the Duty.

3. By this means the Rents of Lands will be kept up in *England*; for although the Lands in *Ireland* be very much cheaper, yet the Duty laid, will put the English Tenant in a Capacity at all Markets to sell their Cattle at equall prizes with those that shall be imported, whereas now what is Imported must be sold first, because the English can no way be able to sell at the price the Irish can, and in all Markets are great Gainers, when the English are Lofers.

FINIS.